

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Deadly car bomb rocks western Kabul

BY PHILLIP WALTER  
WELLMAN  
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 24 people died and more than 40 were wounded when a suicide car bomb exploded here during Monday morning rush hour, government officials said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which occurred in a western area of the Afghan capital where several prominent politicians live.

The militants said that they targeted a bus used by the national intelligence agency's staff, but officials said no vehicle belonging to the agency was in the area and that most of the victims had no government affiliation.

The blast occurred near a private university and destroyed a vehicle rented by employees of the nearby Mines and Pe-

troleum Ministry, said Abdul Qadir Mufti, a spokesman for the ministry.

Fifteen people from the ministry were killed in the attack and another four were injured, Mufti said.

Najib Danish, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry, said motorists, pedestrians and shop owners constituted most of the casualties.

"The Taliban are not only the enemies of the security forces; they are also the enemies of the Afghan people," Danish said. "They continue to carry out many attacks which only harm civilians."

Local media, citing unnamed sources, said the death toll could be higher than 30.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul condemned the attack, saying it showed "blatant disrespect for human life and the rights of all Afghans to live peacefully and free from terror."

Pakistan and the European

Union also issued statements of condemnation.

In the past year, the insurgents increasingly have targeted state employees and other officials deemed loyal to the government, whom they see as legitimate targets.

People on Twitter described hearing a deafening blast that shattered windows just before 7 a.m. Monday. Officials said more than a dozen local shops and several civilian vehicles also were destroyed.

The area where the blast hit is home to former warlord and government Deputy Chief Executive Mohammad Mohaqiq, who is a leader of the minority Hazara ethnic group. Many other Hazaras live in the area.

Monday's bombing came after the Taliban seized two districts from Afghan forces in Faryab and Ghor provinces during the weekend. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Stars and Stripes that

the militants were trying to attack "everywhere in the country now."

On Sunday, Taliban fighters stormed a hospital in Ghor, reportedly looking for wounded members of the security forces, and killed patients and staff, NATO's Resolute Support mission said.

The Ghor and Kabul incidents "only serve to strengthen the resolve of the international community to support the Afghan people in the face of these terrorist attacks," NATO said in a statement.

Kabul, which historically has been one of the safest places in Afghanistan, accounted for 20 percent of a record 1,662 civilian deaths documented in the country by the United Nations during the first half of the year. A recent U.N. report highlighted signs of a deteriorating security situation more than 15 years after a U.S.-led invasion ousted the Taliban from power.

## DOD: Chinese jets intercepted US spy plane

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Two Chinese fighter jets performed a dangerous interception of an American spy plane Sunday over the East China Sea, forcing the Navy EP-3 reconnaissance jet to maneuver to avoid a mid-air collision, a Pentagon spokesman said Monday.

The American pilots deemed the interaction with the Chinese J-10 jets "unsafe and unprofessional" after one of the fighters flew underneath the American plane at a high rate of speed be-

fore slowing and pulling up into the EP-3's flight path, said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman. The Navy aircraft's collision detection warning sounded and the pilot took "evasive action" to avoid the Chinese jet.

The incident occurred late in the morning Sunday in international airspace, about 90 miles south of Qingdao, a Chinese port city north of Shanghai, Davis said.

The J-10 that performed the unsafe maneuver, essentially "cutting off" the American plane, flew within about 300

feet of the EP-3, a U.S. defense official said on condition of anonymity.

Davis said interactions with Chinese military aircraft are rarely unsafe. "There are intercepts that occur in international airspace regularly," Davis told reporters at the Pentagon. "The vast majority of them are conducted in a safe manner. This was the exception, not the norm."

The incident followed two similar interceptions of U.S. military aircraft by Chinese fighter jets in May. Two Chinese J-10s performed an "unsafe and

unprofessional" interception of a Navy P-3 Orion over the South China Sea on May 24. One of the fighters maneuvered within 100 feet of the American plane off the coast of Hong Kong in that incident, the Pentagon said.

On May 18, two Chinese Su-30 fighter jets intercepted an Air Force WC-135 Constant Phoenix, known as a "nuclear sniffer" plane, over the East China Sea. In that incident, one of the planes maneuvered within about 150 feet of the American plane, flying inverted above the WC-135, Pentagon officials said.

# Enlisted sailors key to Talisman Saber success

BY MATTHEW M. BURKEN

*Stars and Stripes*

ABOARD THE USS BONHOMME RICHARD, Coral Sea — The sailors of the USS Bonhomme Richard remained in the thick of the action during massive, month-long Talisman Saber drills that wrap up Tuesday off the Australian coast.

As part of the 11-ship Talisman Saber Expeditionary Strike Group, the Wasp-class amphibious assault vessel was involved in everything from launching Marines for amphibious assaults to handling landing and support aircraft like MV-22 Ospreys and AV-8B Harriers.

But for sailors like Petty Officer 2nd Class Mason Housley, the days spent serving the exercise were just like any other time at sea. He is among the many unheralded servicemembers who perform jobs integral to making exercises like Talisman Saber successful, yet are often unseen and unheard.

In fact, Housley, 22, a machinist mate from Cincinnati, said he didn't see an Australian servicemember until nearly a month into the exercise.

"Our day-to-day is the same (whether in or out of the exercise)," Housley told Stars and Stripes last week from a small, air-conditioned room deep within the Bonhomme Richard that's filled with control panels and gauges. "You know, we come down, we stand our watch and we just support the ship."

From the machine room, Housley and his shipmates control the Bonhomme Richard's electricity and potable water supply, along with its propulsion.

"The bridge says we have to go this fast for whatever reason, and we push the ship

through the water," he said. "There's no one else that can do [this job] on the boat. I love my job. I don't think I'd be happy anywhere else."

Talisman Saber kicked off its seventh iteration aboard the Bonhomme Richard as it approached Sydney Harbor on June 29. After that, the U.S., Australian and New Zealand navies engaged in a variety of operations as the coalition attacked a well-trenched, land-based enemy force with the modern capabilities of regional players like Russia and China.

The goal of Talisman Saber was to "increase proficiency operating in a multi-threat environment," an Amphibious Force 7th Fleet statement said.

There were others aboard the Bonhomme Richard — and on other ships, such as the USS Green Bay, HMAS Success, USS Sterett, HMAS Canberra III and the HMAS Choules — who did not carry rifles nor have their faces covered in camouflage, yet whose contributions were just as important to victory in the exercise.

"Our job is initially to load these (landing craft air cushion) with our equipment right here, from the Humvees to the trucks to any of this ammo," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Esfrain Adame, 23, who works in the Bonhomme Richard's deck department. "We load 'em up, get alongside, then kick 'em out to go along the shore so the Marine Corps can do whatever they need to do and raid the beach."

Adame, who's from Reading, Pa., said participants focused on honing their skills in the real-world environment of the high-tempo exercise.

"These LCACs don't just go out on their own, right?" Adame said. "It's my job to

signal them out and bring them in."

Adame and his fellow deck-department sailors woke up at 4:30 a.m. on the morning of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's amphibious landing. They swept the well-deck for even the smallest of debris that could affect a landing craft and hamper the assault.

"We want to make sure everything is safe, nothing is loose," he said.

About an hour later, they set Condition 1 Alpha, which meant well-deck operations would commence shortly. Next, they were given a time when the LCACs needed to be "kicked out" of the ship.

Adame and his colleagues worked to meet that deadline, loading them up, strapping things down and making sure the Marines were loaded and ready.

Three LCACs from Naval Beach Unit 7 out of Sasebo, Japan, were released at five-minute intervals about an hour or so into last week's assault. It took about 20 minutes for them to reach the beach, to deploy their payloads of vehicles and Marines and then to return to the Bonhomme Richard for the next wave. Ten minutes later, they were loaded up again and headed back out.

It all went like clockwork.

"Everything we do is back-to-back," Adame said. "There's no breaks whatsoever. We start very early in the morning and end around [4:30 p.m.] in the afternoon."

Adame said members of the deck department take a lot of pride in their work, even though they don't often get a lot of accolades.

"We love what we do," he said. "It's something we're privileged to do, as well. Not every ship has the capabilities to do what we do."

## Japan ending Fitzgerald probe without access to US data

*Associated Press*

TOKYO — Japanese authorities said Monday that they were almost finished with their investigation into last month's collision between a Philippine freighter and a U.S. naval destroyer that left seven Navy sailors dead, but still haven't been given access to data from the U.S. side.

The container ship, the ACX Crystal, and most of its crew were allowed to leave Japan for Thailand on Sunday after repairs were finished. Coast guard officials declined to give details.

A spokesman for the company that owns the freighter, Yoshinori Fukushima, said

Monday that the captain and some crewmembers had stayed behind voluntarily for additional questioning.

The crash occurred June 17 south of Tokyo off the Izu peninsula in an accident-prone area known for congestion with ships trying to reach Tokyo by daybreak. That is within Japanese territorial waters, but the U.S. military holds the right to investigate its naval vessel and has not cooperated with Japan's investigation, which is allowed under the bilateral status-of-forces agreement, officials said.

Japanese coast guard officials said that they were still discussing possible coop-

eration with the U.S. side, but that nothing concrete has been decided and they could not say when a conclusion was expected.

A team of experts at the Japan Transport Safety Board is also investigating the cause of the accident. Katsunori Takahashi, a spokesman for the safety board, has said officials may have to compile a report of what caused the accident only with what information they have. There have been past cases in which the U.S. never cooperated, he said.

U.S. and Japanese officials haven't said whether crewmembers from the USS Fitzgerald were thought to be responsible for the crash.

# Airmen laud changes to simplify professional education program

By LEON COOK  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Recent changes to the Air Force's professional military education program for enlisted airmen were met with enthusiastic praise in work centers, dining facilities, online communities and pretty much anywhere airmen talk.

The new "Enlisted Professional Military Education for the 21st Century" policy — announced last week in a servicewide message from Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Kaleth Wright — returns emphasis to resident courses that were the focus of the program for decades. It also ends automatic, time-gated enrollment in unpopular online classes that replaced resident courses for most airmen.

"This model (time-gated and automatic enrollment in online classes) was effective for some, but we quickly found it didn't meet the needs of all airmen, causing many NCOs to lose the opportunity to attend EPME in-residence," Wright said in the message. "Returning to a rank-based model is a necessary first step to EPME 21,

ensuring every airman has the opportunity to attend."

Although an online course will be required as a prerequisite for the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and Senior NCO Academy courses that airmen take as technical sergeants and senior master sergeants, airmen will no longer be required — or allowed — to take online professional military education courses too advanced for their grade, Wright said.

"I don't think you'll find anyone who's upset about the change," said Staff Sgt. John Drabeck, a cyber transport systems specialist at American Forces Network Tokyo.

Drabeck, who was automatically enrolled in the Course 15 online class for NCOs while deployed to the United Arab Emirates two years ago, said the website that contained the training didn't work at the time.

"They enrolled me in a class and told me I had to finish it in a year or I couldn't re-enlist," he said Monday.

"But their own website wouldn't let me log in, so I couldn't even start the course."

The process was so frustrating he decided to worry about

it once he got back to his home station two months later, but he said his log-in issues persisted.

"I had to file a trouble ticket and eventually I found a link to PDFs I could study in one of their FAQs," he said.

The troubles logging in were a problem plaguing many shortly after the program was rolled out, Drabeck said.

Airmen who already completed the NCO or SNCO distance-learning courses but couldn't attend the academy because of time-in-service gates will receive full EPME credit and don't have to attend a resident course, Wright's message said.

Those now enrolled in the NCO or SNCO online courses may finish the class and receive the distance-learning credit or drop out of the class with no penalty, he said.

As a graduate of the NCO distance-learning class, Drabeck doesn't have to attend the NCO academy or worry about another course until being selected for master sergeant.

"I'm glad I finished it, but the class could've been done a lot better," he said. "It could've been streamlined, and it should've worked before they made it mandatory."

# Sex assault charges for GI based in S. Korea

By YOO KYONG CHANG  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — A U.S. servicemember stationed at Osan Air Base has been charged with sexually assaulting a South Korean woman at a hotel in Seoul's trendy Gangnam district, officials said.

The man met the woman at a club, then took her to a nearby hotel where the incident allegedly happened on April 1, the Seoul central district prosecutor's office said.

Police took time to identify and locate the suspect after the woman reported the assault by combing through closed-circuit television footage from the area and using DNA, officials said.

They then worked with U.S. representatives to summon and question the servicemember in accordance with the status of forces agreement between the two countries.

The suspect was indicted July 17 and has been jailed, an official in the prosecutor's office said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said the woman had been too drunk and incapacitated to give consent.

# 'Old Ironsides' returns to Boston after repairs

*Associated Press*

BOSTON — The USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship still afloat, returned Sunday to Boston.

The undocking of "Old Ironsides" marked the end of restoration work that started two years ago, officials said. A celebration was held at the USS Constitution Museum.

The wooden ship was launched in 1797 and earned its famous nickname notching victories in the War of 1812.

"The ship has been the cornerstone of the Navy for a long

time," said Robert Gerosa, the Constitution's commanding officer. "To be a part of the ship is truly an honor."

The restorations extend the life of the nearly 2-foot-thick vessel — the last remaining survivor of six ships created when President George Washington signed the Naval Armament Act — said Margherita Desy, a historian at Naval History & Heritage Command Detachment Boston.

A crowd of people gathered around the ship Sunday night to watch as it was floated off its blocks and into the harbor.

The ship enters dry dock about every 20 years for below-the-waterline repairs. The most recent work included replacing 100 hull planks and installing 2,200 new copper sheets, 500 of which were signed by nearly 100,000 museum visitors, according to USS Constitution Museum President Anne Grimes Rand, who called the ship "a wonderful symbol for our democracy."

"It was meant to last for 10 or 20 years, and to have (the) ship here more than 200 years later, it needs constant care," Rand said.

The Constitution entered the dock at the historic Charlestown Navy Yard on the night of May 18, 2015, and on Sunday — expected to have the highest tide of the summer — the dry dock was flooded, and the ship was lifted off the keel block.

When the height of the water at the dry dock equaled the height of the water in Boston Harbor, the ship was slowly towed out of the dock.

The vessel will be temporarily docked at a nearby pier to undergo more restoration work until September, when it will reopen for public tours.

# Rig driver charged in 10 immigrant deaths

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The driver of a broiling tractor-trailer found packed with immigrants outside a Walmart in San Antonio was charged Monday in the deaths of 10 of his passengers and could face the death penalty.

James Matthew Bradley Jr., 60, of Clearwater, Fla., appeared in federal court on charges of illegally transporting immigrants for financial gain, resulting in death. He was ordered held for another hearing on Thursday and said nothing in court about what happened.

Authorities discovered eight bodies inside the crowded 18-wheeler parked in the summer heat, and two more victims died at the hospital. Officials feared the death toll could rise because nearly 20 others rescued from the truck were in dire condition, many suffering from extreme dehydration and heatstroke.

A passenger told authorities that they took turns breathing through a hole in the trailer and pounding on the walls to try to get the driver's attention, according to court papers.

"We're looking at a human-trafficking crime," San Antonio Police Chief William McManus said Sunday, calling it "a horrific tragedy."

Bradley told investigators that the trailer had been sold and he was transporting it from Iowa

to Brownsville, Texas, and that he was unaware that there were people inside until he parked and got out to urinate.

After hearing banging and shaking, he opened the door and was "surprised when he was run over by 'Spanish' people and knocked to the ground," according to the complaint.

Bradley allegedly told investigators that he knew the trailer refrigeration system didn't work and that the four ventilation holes were probably clogged. He also said he did not call 911, even though he realized that several people already were dead.

A passenger told investigators that he and others crossed the Mexican border into the U.S. illegally by raft and were then guided into the trailer to be taken north to San Antonio, according to the criminal complaint. The passenger said the immigrants inside the truck soon began to struggle to breathe.

Based on initial interviews with survivors of the San Antonio case, more than 100 people may have been packed into the back of the truck at one point in its journey, said Thomas Homan, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Officials said 39 people were inside when rescuers arrived, and the rest were believed to have escaped or hitched rides to their next destination.

# Kushner denies improper contacts with Russians

Bloomberg

Jared Kushner said he had no improper contacts with Russian officials during the presidential campaign, after he spent 2½ hours answering questions from Senate investigators examining meddling by Moscow in the 2016 election.

"Let me be very clear: I did not collude with Russia, nor do I know of anyone else in the campaign who did so," Kushner said Monday in a brief statement to reporters at the White House following his interview with Senate Intelligence Committee staff.

In a written statement released ahead of his meeting with investigators, Kushner confirmed four contacts with Russians during his father-in-law's presidential campaign and the transition, but he described the encounters as unmemorable and denied colluding with the Russian government to help President Donald Trump win.

In the most consequential meeting, Kushner said he agreed to meet with a Russian banker, Sergey Gorkov, on Dec. 13 at the request of the Russian ambassador to the U.S., Sergey Kislyak. He said nothing of substance came from the meeting, and he has "had no reason to connect" with Gorkov since.

Kushner arrived at the Senate Hart office building shortly before 10 a.m. in Washington and entered the interview with his lawyer, Abbe Lowell. The meeting was closed to the public, and it wasn't clear whether any of

the committee's members participated or only their staff.

The Senate panel is investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 campaign, including whether Trump's campaign colluded with a Kremlin-led effort to tip the election his way. Kushner's business dealings also have come under scrutiny. Robert Mueller, a special counsel appointed to oversee the Justice Department probe into the campaign, is examining Kushner's efforts to secure financing for some of his family's real estate holdings, according to a person familiar with the inquiry.

Kushner's contacts with Russians have come under increasing scrutiny in recent weeks. He has had to amend his security clearance disclosures to account for previously unreported meetings with foreign contacts, and his brother-in-law, Donald Trump Jr., disclosed this month that in June 2016, Kushner sat in on a meeting with a Russian lawyer and a Russian lobbyist that Trump Jr. believed would deliver potentially damaging information about Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

There also has been speculation about Kushner's ties to Russia after reports that he had requested to set up a communication back-channel with the Russian government during the presidential transition. Kushner acknowledged that the idea did come up at a Dec. 1 meeting with Kislyak after the election.

# Suspect sought after chainsaw attack in Switzerland

Associated Press

BERLIN — A man armed with a chainsaw wounded five people at a health insurer's office Monday in the northern Swiss city of Schaffhausen, police said, triggering a manhunt for a suspect described as aggressive and psychologically unstable.

Suspect Franz Wrousis, 51, has two previous convictions for weapons offenses and no fixed residence, apparently preferring to spend his time in the woods, authorities

said.

The man seriously injured two insurance agency employees in their ground-floor office in the morning, said Christina Wetzstein of the insurer CSS.

The two employees were hospitalized and underwent medical operations but authorities said their lives were not in danger. Another three people were slightly injured in the confrontation.

The perpetrator had fled by the time police arrived. Authorities immediately sealed

off the area where the attack occurred.

Swiss police believe "this was first and foremost a crime against this insurance agency," senior regional police official Ravi Landolt told reporters, though there was no immediate word on the suspect's possible motive.

Switzerland has a system of mandatory insurance with private health insurers.

Prosecutor Peter Sticher said Wrousis has two previous convictions for offenses against weapons laws, in 2014 and 2016.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Doctor whose dog bit girl under fire again

**NJ** HADDONFIELD — A New Jersey doctor whose dog bit off a young girl's ear in 2009 is facing allegations that his new dogs are terrorizing the neighborhood.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that two neighbors have had run-ins with Robert Taffet's dogs in Haddonfield.

One neighbor filed a police report after he said one of Taffet's dogs came charging at him while he was walking his own dog, and a second neighbor said three of his dogs attacked her and her dog.

Taffet said the incidents were not as severe as described. His wife was cited for having three dogs not properly registered.

### Kayaker hospitalized after lightning strike

**FL** ORMOND BEACH — A 31-year-old kayaker was struck by lightning and was rushed to the hospital.

Flagler County Fire Chief Don Petito said the victim was standing in a shallow area of the Intracoastal Waterway on Saturday night when a bolt of lightning struck nearby. She was injured by the electric shock. Petito said paramedics found her alert and conscious. Her name was not released.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported she was taken to the hospital but her condition was not known.

### Man angry over game guilty of assaulting girl

**PA** GREENSBURG — A man so drunk and angry over a Pittsburgh Steelers loss that he almost hit his 4-year-old daughter with a folding chair will spend three years on probation.

The Tribune-Review reported Arnold Palmer Jr., 55, pleaded guilty Wednesday to simple assault. Westmoreland County prosecutors dropped more serious aggravated assault charges against the Ligonier man.

Police said Palmer acknowledged drinking 16 beers and getting mad because the girl wouldn't quiet down during Pittsburgh's 21-14 loss to the Baltimore Ravens on Nov. 6. Police said Palmer avoided hitting the girl only because his wife grabbed the chair.

Defense attorney Eric Dee said the couple now live separately. Palmer also must undergo alcohol treatment and take anger management and parenting courses.

### Cops: Man threatened to shoot over sandwich

**OH** SOUTH EUCLID — Police in suburban Cleveland said a fast-food restaurant customer angry about the way his sandwich tasted and looked threatened to shoot somebody over it.

The South Euclid Police Department reported receiving a call July 18 about a man storming into the Steak 'n Shake restaurant "acting crazy," saying he had a gun and was going to shoot someone. Police said the 20-year-old man complained that the egg on his sandwich was runny and slimy and looked like spit.

He faces an aggravated menacing charge. Police said he didn't have a gun.

### Rescuers get stuck while helping kayakers

**SC** HILTON HEAD ISLAND — Even rescuers get stuck, too, sometimes.

That happened in the marshes of Hilton Head Island when a rescue airboat tried to help two kayakers who had gotten

stuck during low tide.

The Island Packet reported that authorities were called Thursday afternoon. David Refosco, second mate with Beaufort Water Search and Rescue, said an airboat arrived about 1:30 p.m. and got close to the kayakers in about 10 minutes. Then the rescue boat got stuck in a ravine among high marsh grass. Refosco said they waited about 30 minutes for the tide to come in and then maneuvered out of the situation and brought everyone to shore.

### Police: Man set off big firework inside bar

**ND** GRAND FORKS — Authorities said a Minnesota man was arrested on suspicion of setting off a large firework in a North Dakota bar while it was full of people.

The Grand Forks Police Department said the incident occurred early July 16. Police said the 20-year-old Crookston man was charged preliminarily with offenses including endangering by fire or explosion and criminal mischief. Officials said the firework caused moderate damage to the inside of the bar and several customers were hit with flying glass.

### Fishermen overboard, boat circles for hours

**ME** BIDDEFORD — An unmanned boat went in circles for hours off of Maine after two boaters were thrown from the craft while trying to reel in a large haddock.

The mishap happened Saturday morning while the boaters fished off Timber Island in Biddeford. The Portland Press Herald reported the boaters realized their boat was going to ram into a buoy while they reeled in the fish, and a hard turn caused them to be ejected.

Another fisherman saw the

accident and rescued the boaters and took them to land, where they were transferred to hospitals. Their injuries weren't serious.

The 20-foot boat eventually was towed to a pier by members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

### Body found near area where man disappeared

**CT** MILFORD — Connecticut officials said a body was found in the area where a man was reported missing after he was swept off a sandbar.

The Milford Fire Department said the body was located near Silver Sands State Park on Sunday evening. The body has not been identified.

Police said George Swaby, 28, of Bridgeport, and another man were swept into the Long Island Sound by a wave while attempting to walk a sandbar from the park to Charles Island on Friday. The unidentified man was rescued, but Swaby couldn't be located in searches Friday and Saturday.

### 3 lions featured in new exhibit at city zoo

**MI** BATTLE CREEK — A zoo in southwest Michigan is officially welcoming lions in a new exhibit.

Binder Park Zoo's lion exhibit officially opened to the public on July 18 near Battle Creek. The exhibit already includes two female African lions, called Shelby and Salem. They came from the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro. A male lion, Enzi, will join them this week from the Racine Zoo in Wisconsin.

Brett Linsley, the manager of Wildlife, Conservation and Education, said the female lions have been at the zoo only a few days and are still getting used to the environment.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

# NFL coaches, players continue to adjust to lighter training camps

Associated Press

Hey, hold on. You can't do that. Not anymore.

When 10 years' worth of labor peace came to the NFL in 2011, so did a massive change in the rules governing practice — during the season, the off-season and, most especially, in training camps. Lengthy double sessions, the dreaded by players two-a-days, became a shorter session and a walkthrough.

Hitting anywhere outside the games themselves was minimized. Days off during camp were required. Perhaps as worrisome to coaching staffs, not to mention players on the roster bubble, was a significant decrease in teaching time.

Unless the collective bargaining agreement is opened before it expires after the 2020 season, none of that will change. And the complaints will remain.

"Some of the things, that you can't put a player in front of a player in the offseason even with a pad on," Cowboys linebackers coach Matt Eberflus said of one major problem. "That to me is restrictive because you have to use managers and those types of things. The rules are the rules and we abide by the rules. But I think that at times can be a little bit restrictive."

So does Falcons guard Ben Garland, to a degree.

"I think it depends on who you are," the veteran of three NFL seasons said. "If you are a guy who is really young and a free agent and doesn't have a lot of reps, it is really tough for you because it really limits your reps and your experience."

"If you're an older guy, a vet like Alex Mack and Andy Levitre who have played a lot of years and you can just come out here and get these nice, crisp, hard and fast reps, I think it's very beneficial."

"That'd be tough as a rookie free agent to come in here and

only get a few snaps to show yourself."

Where coaches would run and rerun plays that didn't look right in the pre-2011 training camps, they now must turn to film study, videos, photos and other teaching methods in many cases. Some of the great strategists of the game, from Pete Carroll in Seattle to John Harbaugh in Baltimore, have become educators at OTAs, minicamps and during the summer.

Having veterans who have been on the same team for a while is a boon to coaches. Those players can help the youngsters learn more quickly, from the basics to the nuances.

Of course, with free agency and monster contracts such an overriding factor in today's NFL, that stability is difficult to maintain. Plus, assistant coaches tend to move around.

Many fans tend to think training camp and preseason games are exercises in going through the motions. That little matters until those kickoffs in September.

In reality, the summer weeks are more critical than ever.

"This offseason calendar, pretty much we have adapted to it," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "The trick is making sure that you have enough time with the young players."

"But certainly the changes have come, and very quickly as coaches, you get up to speed with them. You can spend a lot of time discussing them, but what is more important is discussing what you are going to do with them."

"I will be honest; I find myself spending more time on preparing how to react. There is someone else who is going to decide whether or not it is long enough or physical enough. I have 10,000 other fires I am worried about."

# Spieth in elite crowd with third major title

Associated Press

SOUTHPORT, England — Jordan Spieth was happy enough to see his name on the claret jug without wondering where he fit in among the rest of the British Open champions whose names are engraved on the oldest trophy in golf.

In that respect, nothing has changed.

Spieth wasn't keen on comparisons when he became the youngest Masters champion since Tiger Woods, the youngest U.S. Open champion since Bobby Jones or the youngest to win two majors since Gene Sarazen. And now that Jack Nicklaus is part of the conversation, he shies away from them even more.

Spieth and Nicklaus are the only players to capture the third leg of the Grand Slam at age 23.

"I'll be careful with my answer," Spieth said Sunday when asked about his place among the greats. "It's amazing. I feel blessed to be able to play the game I love, but I don't think comparisons. ... I don't compare myself. And I don't think that they're appropriate or necessary. So to be in that company no doubt is absolutely incredible, and I certainly appreciate it."

To hear his name listed in such elite company is merely a reward from the work he put in to get there.

"But I'm very careful as to what that means going forward," he added, "Because what those guys have done has transcended the sport. And in no way, shape or form do I think I'm anywhere near that whatsoever. So it's a good start, but there is a long way to go."

Maybe.

But if he were to win the PGA Championship in three weeks, he will be only the sixth — and youngest — to have all four majors.

The prospect is exciting, though recent history illustrates why success can be so fleeting in golf.

Rory McIlroy looked unstoppable when he won the British Open and PGA Championship at the end of 2014, and then headed to Augusta National for a shot at the Grand Slam. Who could possibly beat that blend of power and scoring? Spieth won the Masters in a runaway. McIlroy has finished six shots behind at Augusta in each of the three chances he has had to complete the Grand Slam.

Phil Mickelson won the British Open in 2013 and was a U.S. Open away from a career Grand Slam — the major where he was runner-up six times. In three chances since, Mickelson has finished 15 and 18 shots out of the lead and missed the cut last year.

More than winning at Royal Birkdale was the manner in which Spieth did it.

That evokes more comparisons.

Even though Spieth already has 11 victories on the PGA Tour, including his three majors, he does not bring intimidation to the first tee. Geoff Ogilvy spoke to that two years ago at St. Andrews when Spieth was trying to win the calendar Grand Slam.

"He beats you with better golf. He doesn't beat you because he hits it further," Ogilvy said that day. "Tiger's intimidation was that he always did something amazing. Jordan doesn't beat you with a crazy par, or a crazy chip-in. He just beats you because he's better."

Ernie Els even raised the prospect of Spieth reaching the 14 majors won by Woods.

"When you get on a roll like that, guys kind of starting knowing that you know how to win," Els said. "And almost like Tiger, where people can maybe feel like they can't do it against Jordan. Because he's been up there a few times now."

And as he showed Sunday at Royal Birkdale, he has a sense of the occasion. Next up is how that translates at the PGA Championship.

# Peaty, Sjostrom grab swim spotlight

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — With Katie Ledecky taking the night off, Adam Peaty and Sarah Sjostrom shared the spotlight Monday at the world championships.

Peaty romped to victory in the 100-meter breaststroke, while Sjostrom just missed breaking her own world record in the 100 butterfly.

Now sporting a massive lion tattoo on his left arm, Peaty made the turn under his world-record pace from last summer's Rio Olympics but faded a bit on the return lap to touch in 57.47 seconds. The British star missed his mark of 57.13 yet still turned in the second-fastest time ever in the event.

Having already set a world record with her leadoff leg in the 4x100 freestyle relay, Sjostrom nearly took down another mark in the fly with a winning time of 55.53. That was just 0.05 seconds off the Swede's gold-medal triumph at Rio.

Ledecky is off to a golden start at the world championships.

Make it a double.

The 20-year-old American

star began an audacious week by winning a pair of gold medals Sunday on the opening night of swimming along the Danube River. She cruised to a dominating victory in the 400-meter freestyle and put the U.S. ahead to stay in the 4x100 free relay.

Anchored by Nathan Adrian, the American men also won gold in the 4x100 free.

"It was a good first night for Team USA," Ledecky said. "I'm happy with my two swims and how it all went."

The only blip of a disappointment: Ledecky didn't break the 400 free world record she set last summer at Rio de Janeiro. That merely demonstrates what a high standard she's set.

For the most part, her only competitor is the clock.

"It's my second-best time," Ledecky said. "There's no disappointment. It's a world championship gold medal and there's nothing to complain about there."

Ledecky touched in 3 minutes, 58.34 seconds — more than 3 seconds ahead of U.S. teammate Leah Smith but nearly 2 seconds off the world

record (3:56.46) from the Olympics. China's Li Bingjie claimed the bronze.

About an hour later, Ledecky returned to the pool for the relay, a down-and-back sprint that is the weakest of her distances, but one that provides an opportunity to equal Missy Franklin's female record of six gold medals at the 2013 worlds.

Ledecky turned in the slowest split on the American team, actually slipping to third on her 50 flip. But she powered back to the front by the time she passed off to Olympic champion Simone Manuel, who closed it out for the Americans.

Sjostrom set a blistering opening pace for Sweden, taking down the first swimming world record of the championships with a split of 51.71. She eclipsed the 100 free mark of 52.06 set last year by Australia's Cate Campbell.

But Sweden didn't have enough speed on the back end and faded to fifth. Manuel touched in 3:31.72, anchoring a team that also included rising star Mallory Comerford and Kelsi Worrell.

The U.S. took three of the first

four swimming events, holding off hard-charging Brazil in the men's relay. Caeleb Dressel went out more than a second faster than anyone on the opening leg, and Adrian brought it home with Bruno Fratus right on his left shoulder.

At the worlds two years ago, the Americans stunningly failed to qualify for the final in Kazan, a huge embarrassment for the swimming superpower.

Now, they're back on top of the world.

"There's a legacy that was left for us to take over," said the 28-year-old Adrian, the senior member of a squad that also included Townley Haas and Blake Pieroni. "I know when I leave, it will be in good hands."

The winning time was 3:10.06 — just 0.28 ahead of the Brazilians. The crowd saved its biggest cheers for the bronze medalist, rocking Duna Arena when Hungary rallied for a spot on the podium.

In the first final of the night, China's Sun Yang got a bit of payback for his Olympic defeat in the men's 400 free, pulling away from rival Mack Horton of Australia.

# Kahne ends drought with Brickyard win

BY MICHAEL MAROT

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Kasey Kahne needed a break Sunday — and got it.

The 37-year-old driver barely reached the overtime line before the last caution flag came out in a crash-marred Brickyard 400, allowing Kahne to complete a six-hour marathon and snap a long winless streak.

He crossed the yard of bricks under caution with daylight fading and his muscles cramping, just ahead of Brad Keselowski and Ryan Newman.

"I had a great car out front. I had a pretty good car all day long. I was really happy," Kahne said. "Unbelievable to win in Indianapolis. Unbelievable to win a Cup race — it's been a while. I know it's great for my team."

But even before kissing the bricks and posing for photos, Kahne's long-awaited victory celebration was put on hold as he

dropped to the ground and his crew members tried to rub out the cramps he fought through late in the race.

Afterward, Kahne went to the speedway's infield medical center where he received intravenous fluids. Other drivers said temperatures inside the cockpits topped 130 degrees.

The wacky race had a little of everything — 14 cautions and 55 caution laps, both race records, three red flags and a 1-hour, 47-minute rain delay. Nineteen cars did not finish. It lasted so long, drivers were racing against the impending darkness as much as they were themselves.

For Kahne, his 18th career win might have been the sweetest of all.

He had only three top-10 finishes in the first 19 races. His future with Hendrick Motorsports was in question, and after going almost three full years and more than 100 races without a win, he was finally back in Victory Lane.

Kahne's last win came in Atlanta in August 2014.

By any measure, it was a wacky day.

The two fastest cars on Indy's 2.5-mile oval — Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr. — went out in a crash with 49 laps to go. Truex's car slid up the track going through the first turn and the Toyota teammates both wound up in the wall. Busch led the first 71 laps, 87 of the first 110 and swept the first two stages ahead of Truex.

"That's the way it goes," Busch said. "Just chalk it up to another one we found a way to lose."

The finish was even wilder.

Over the last 16 laps, there were five crashes and two red flags.

The craziness began when Kurt Busch, Erik Jones and Clint Bowyer got together coming out of the fourth turn. On the ensuing restart, Kyle Larson hit the wall on the front straightaway to bring out another caution.

# Dodgers' Kershaw suffers injury in win

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers are bracing for the worst after Clayton Kershaw's latest back injury.

Manager Dave Roberts said the All-Star ace was headed to the 10-day disabled list after Kershaw left 21 pitches into his start on Sunday because of right lower back tightness.

"Just felt a little something in my back that wasn't normal," a subdued Kershaw said.

The NL West leaders overcame a blown save by Kenley Jansen to beat the Atlanta Braves 5-4 on Logan Forsythe's bases-loaded single in the 10th inning and gain a split in the four-game series.

Roberts said Kershaw felt something on his last warm-up pitch going into the second inning. Kershaw's form didn't look right from the dugout, so the team's trainer

came out to check on him.

Kershaw said he was going to see a doctor on Sunday night and undergo scans.

"It's a DL situation," Roberts said. "It will take 10 days regardless."

Also headed to the DL is starter Brandon McCarthy, who has a blister.

Kershaw declined to compare his current situation with last year, when he was limited to a 12-4 record in 21 starts and missed 2½ months with a herniated disk in his back.

"Some of the symptoms aren't as bad as they could be," he said.

Kershaw is unbeaten in 15 consecutive starts and the team is 19-2 when he takes the mound.

Jansen entered with a 3-1 lead and got the final out of the eighth, but gave up a three-run homer to Matt Adams in the ninth, tying the game at 4-all.

"He's got that nasty cutter," Adams said. "I was just telling myself to be on time and try to get the barrel out, not get jammed with it. I got a pitch I was able to do it with."

Forsythe singled up the middle after Cody Bellinger was intentionally walked by Jim Johnson (6-2) to load the bases.

Brandon Morrow (3-0) got the win after retiring the side in the top of the 10th.

Austin Barnes hit a three-run homer in the fourth for the Dodgers.

Kershaw was replaced by Ross Stripling, who allowed one run and two hits in three innings. The right-hander struck out two and walked two.

Barnes hit an 0-2 pitch into left field after Forsythe and Kike Hernandez drew consecutive walks to open the fourth, making it 3-1.

Bellinger added his team-leading 27th homer with two outs in the eighth.

## Roundup

# Cubs top Cards, move into tie atop NL Central

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Willson Contreras yelled as he rounded first base and the ball landed in the bleachers at Wrigley Field.

The Chicago Cubs are having fun again, led by their exuberant catcher.

Contreras hit a tiebreaking two-run homer, handing another victory to Jose Quintana, and the Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals 5-3 on Sunday night to move into a virtual tie for first in the NL Central.

Kyle Schwarber also connected as the Cubs won for the eighth time in nine games since the All-Star break. The World Series champions improved to 51-46, just a few percentage points ahead of Milwaukee after the Brewers (53-48) lost 6-3 at Philadelphia.

"Starting the second half with this kind of energy feels good," Contreras said.

**Nationals 6, Diamondbacks 3:** At Phoenix, Stephen Strasburg left with a 5-0 lead after the second inning, when he walked the No. 8 and No. 9 batters. He is 10-3 with a 3.25 ERA.

Strasburg said his early departure was a precaution. He described the problem as slight "achiness" in his forearm.

**Yankees 6, Mariners 4:** New York won a series for the first time in six weeks when Aroldis Chapman struck out Ben Gamel with a runner on to preserve the Yankees' third win in four games against host Seattle this weekend. The Yankees had been 0-8-2 in series since sweeping Baltimore on June 9-11.

**Rangers 6, Rays 5:** Rougned Odor homered twice, including back-to-back drives with Carlos Gomez in the eighth inning, and visiting Texas completed a three-game sweep.

Odor's two-run drive off Brad Boxberger (2-2) tied the score, and Gomez put the Rangers ahead 6-5 two pitches later.

**Orioles 9, Astros 7:** At Baltimore, Zach Britton pitched a hitless ninth to set an American League record by converting his 55th consecutive save opportunity.

Britton broke the AL mark held by Tom Gordon, who notched 54 straight saves with Boston from 1998-99. Brit-

ton started his run on Oct. 1, 2015, added 47 in a row last season and is 6-for-6 this year. The major league record of 84 is held by Eric Gagne of the Dodgers from 2002-04.

**Indians 8, Blue Jays 1:** Corey Kluber (8-3) struck out a season-high 14 in 7<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings, and host Cleveland finished a three-game sweep. Kluber allowed five hits, including Kevin Pillar's home run, and reached double figures in strikeouts for the ninth time in 16 starts.

**Athletics 3, Mets 2:** At New York, Rookie Matt Chapman quickly atoned for getting picked off at third base by hitting a tiebreaking home run in the seventh. Rafael Montero (1-7).

**Reds 6, Marlins 3:** At Cincinnati, Scooter Gennett, Eugenio Suarez and Tucker Barnhart homered, and Billy Hamilton had three hits and stole a pair of bases to increase his major league-leading total to 43.

**Phillies 6, Brewers 3:** Nick Williams hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the fourth off Junior Guerra (1-4) to lift host Philadelphia.

**Tigers 9, Twins 6:** Jose Igle-

sias had three hits, including a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh off Trevor Hildenberger (1-1) in a 4-hour, 19-minute game — the longest nine-inning game in host Minneapolis' history.

**Royals 5, White Sox 4:** Brandon Moss hit a game-ending double off Tyler Clippard, extending visiting Chicago's longest losing streak since 2013 to nine games.

**Rockies 13, Pirates 3:** At Denver, Kyle Freeland (10-7) allowed two runs over six innings in his first start since his no-hit bid against the Chicago White Sox on July 9 was broken up by Melky Cabrera's one-out single in the ninth.

**Angels 3, Red Sox 2:** Luis Valbuena hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the seventh off Rick Porcello (4-13), and Mike Trout and Andrelton Simmons also homered for host Los Angeles.

**Padres 5, Giants 2:** Wil Myers homered for the third straight game against host San Francisco, and Jabari Blash hit a go-ahead two-run double in the decisive fourth to back Dinelson Lamet (4-4).